

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P R 250930Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4072

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, US, KS, CH

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON ROK FONMIN AND PM STATEMENTS ON KOREAN
QUESTION, MEETING WITH SECSTATE

1. ALL PAPERS NOVEMBER 25 CARRIED FONMIN KIM TONG-CHO'S
NOVEMBER 24 PRESS CONFERENCE AT KIMPO AIRPORT ON RETURN
FROM U.S. THEY REPORTED KIM SAYING THAT HE AND SECSTATE
ONLY DISCUSSED MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST TO THE TWO NATIONS
AND DID NOT GET INTO DETAILS CONCERNING A MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE KOREAN ARMISTICE OR ABOUT A SIX-NATION MEETING ON
KOREA, ALTHOUGH A MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KOREAN ARMISTICE
AND PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO CHINA WERE DISCUSSED IN
GENERAL TERMS. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID FUTURE UN POLICY WAS
NOT DISCUSSED.

2. IN REMARKS BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 24,
PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL WAS REPORTED BY PRESS AS
SAYING THAT GOVERNMENT WAS STUDYING CHANGES IN UN
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POLICY BUT DID NOT PLAN TO BREAK WITH UN, DESPITE ITS

INABILITY TO SOLVE KOREAN QUESTION REASONABLY, SINCE UN ONLY FORUM WHERE WORLD ISSUES COULD BE DEALT WITH, IRRESPECTIVE OF RESULTS WHICH MIGHT ENSUE. PM ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID ROK WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO PERSUADE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS OF ITS TRUE INTENTIONS DESPITE FAILURE OF ATTEMPT TO JOIN NON-ALIGNED GROUP. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT FOREIGN MINISTER KIM TONG-CHO'S FUTURE PM REPORTEDLY TURNED ASIDE SUGGESTION FONMIN MIGHT BE ASKED TO RESIGN AND SAID HE FULFILLED MISSION WELL AT TIME WHEN INTERNATIONAL SITUATION VERY COMPLICATED.

3. PRIOR TO ABOVE STATEMENTS ALL AFTERNOON PAPERS NOVEMBER 24, CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES REPORTING FONMIN KIM TONG-CHO'S 25 MINUTE MEETING NOVEMBER 22 WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. ALL PAPERS SAID KISSINGER TOLD KIM ROK IN NO POSITION NOW TO PURSUE POLICY OF TAKING KOREAN QUESTION OUT OF UN ENTIRELY. PRESS ALSO REPORTED KISSINGER ASSURANCE THAT US WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR ROK SECURITY REGARDLESS OF UNGA VOTE.

4. NOVEMBER 24 CHUNGANG ILBO, IN WASHINGTON DATELINED STORY WHICH CARRIED MOST DETAILED ACCOUNT OF MEETING, WAS ONLY PAPER TO SAY THAT KISSINGER TOLD KIM THAT PRC IS NOW IN NO REPEAT NO POSITION TO REACT POSITIVELY TO PROPOSALS FOR SETTLEMENT OF KOREAN PROBLEM BECAUSE OF LEADERSHIP UNCERTAINTIES CAUSED BY INFIRMITY OF CHOU EN-LAI AND MAO TSE-TUNG. CHUNGANG ILBO REPORTED KISSINGER SAID HE HOPED PRC WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER AND RESPOND POSITIVELY TO AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE KOREAN ISSUE BY NEXT SUMMER IF ITS LEADERSHIP SITUATION IS STABILIZED. CHUNGANG ILBO ALSO SAID KISSINGER AND KIM AGREED TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY WITH DECISION ON FUTURE UN STRATEGY BUT THAT BOTH AGREED ROK WOULD SET UP A POLICY TOWARD THE UN WHICH WOULD END ROK VOTE-BEGGING APPROACH.

COMMENT: ROKG HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO HOLD IN CHECK, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, SOME OF THE SUGGESTIONS FOR A MAJOR UN POLICY OVERHAUL WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS OR HAVE EMANATED FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE.
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END COMMENT.
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